

Westford Board of Health Issues Advisory

The Board of Health is notifying the public that as a result of recent testing done at an abandoned Quarry west of North street, which showed elevated levels of perchlorate at 819 ppb (parts per billion), and a home on Emily Way at 425 ppb, homes with private wells, within a half mile radius should take precautionary measures to assure their wells have not been adversely impacted

Perchlorate is an oxidizer and primary ingredient in solid rocket fuel, and is also used in safety flares, fireworks, and other explosives. It is also found in some fertilizers. Although we do not know at this time if or when a well may be adversely affected by runoff from this identified site, the department is encouraging residents in the impacted area to do the following:

- Have your well tested by one of the DEP certified labs. A list of labs can be obtained through the health department. The Board of Health has arranged for a discounted rate of \$100 for testing through Alpha Analytical Labs. Test kits can be picked up through the Board of Health office, second floor, Town Hall. A courier service has been arranged for pick-ups on Wednesdays and Fridays. Results will go to the homeowner.
- Report results to the Board of Health @ 978-692-5509 for tracking purpose.
- Drink bottled water and discard any ice cubes, juices, baby formula and other beverages prepared before today.
- All persons including the sensitive individuals may shower with the water. Bathing and skin contact with the water are not reasons for concern even at levels above 1.0 ppb.

As perchlorate can adversely affect the thyroid gland, research has shown that persons who are most sensitive to this contaminant include pregnant women, women who are nursing, infants and children up to the age of 12 and individuals with hypothyroidism. Any of these individuals should not consume drinking water containing concentrations of perchlorate that exceed 1.0ppb. In addition no one should drink water that has levels over 18ppb perchlorate.

The health department will continue to work with Mass DEP to identify homes which appear at the present time to have the highest probability of being impacted by the contaminant plume based upon distance from the Quarry site, affected home and/or presumed groundwater flow direction. Residents within this radius are encouraged to test their own well and resort to bottled water until you receive the results.

For additional information contact Sandy Collins Director of Health Care Services @ 978 399-2531 or the Board of Health office at 978 692-5509.